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DE RUEHBJ #2324 1650721
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7956
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN PRIORITY 0509
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 6118
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 9615
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI PRIORITY 3750
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 1932
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 9118
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 4556
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 4042
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0710
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 9378
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1979
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0622
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 002324

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/RSP -- KEVIN SHEIVES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/13/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ARF](#) [EAID](#) [ASEAN](#) [CH](#)
SUBJECT: CHINA ON ARF STATEMENT ON REGIONAL DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS

REF: STATE 61440 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Acting Political Minister Counselor Ben Moeling. Reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) PolOff on June 12 conveyed to MFA reftel points on issuing an ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Statement on Regional Disaster Preparedness at the July 24 ARF Ministerial Meeting in Singapore. MFA Asian Department Asian Multilateral Security Division Director Ma Jia said China "strongly supports" in principle the idea of an ARF Ministerial statement on disaster preparedness, especially in light of the recent earthquake in Sichuan. Ma predicted that Singapore would also support the idea. She noted that the idea for a template Status of Forces Agreement is especially important. In general, she said, China favors more military input into ARF. Ma said some ASEAN countries may have reservations about a SOFA template, however, and stressed it would be important to characterize correctly the limited scope of a SOFA template.

12. (C) Ma's only note of caution was her observation that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is working on disaster relief. She said ARF work may have to await the results of ASEAN's ongoing effort to draft a set of standard operating procedures on disaster relief and the establishment of ASEAN's planned "Humanitarian Relief Center."
PICCUTA